



Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

**Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2014-2015**

Week Ending Saturday 01/31/2015

Dirk Haselow, MD, PhD

State Epidemiologist, Medical Director, Communicable Diseases

Shirley Louie, MS, CIH

Deputy State Epidemiologist, Director, Center for Public Health Practice

Prepared by:

Haytham Safi, MD, MPH

Influenza Surveillance Coordinator

Haytham.Safi@Arkansas.gov

501-661-2920

David Holcomb, MS, PHP Epidemiologist

During flu season the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces this Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza-like illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the US. ADH receives detailed reports of only a small fraction of flu cases. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows.

Report Summary:

- Since September 28, 2014 (week 40), over 17,000 positive influenza antigen tests have been reported to Arkansas Department of Health by healthcare providers. Over 2,000 were received in week 4 of 2015 from 73 counties.
- Among flu antigen tests that can distinguish between A and B strains, 93% were A, and 7% were B.
- About 60.6% of reported positive antigens were in children 18 years old or less.
- Thirty eight samples reported last week were confirmed Positive for influenza by PCR testing; fifteen A+, 1 B Victoria, 1 B Yamagata and twenty one A H3+.
- Over 12% of patients visiting emergency rooms last week and 7.7% of outpatients visits were for ILI.
- Arkansas reported “Widespread” influenza activity to CDC for week 04.
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 7.4%.
- Nationwide, and for week 03, The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 44 states was reported as widespread; the U.S. Virgin Islands and five states reported regional activity; and the District of Columbia, Guam, and one state reported local activity.
- You can view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at:
<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/infectiousDisease/Immunizations/SeasonalFlu/Pages/FluReport.aspx>

For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

Google Flu Trends: Google Flu Trends uses aggregated Google search data in a model created in collaboration with CDC to estimate influenza activity in the United States. For more information and activity estimates from the U.S. and worldwide, <http://www.google.org/flutrends/us/#US>.

World Health Organization FluNet: Additional influenza surveillance information from participating WHO member nations is available at http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html.

CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - WeeklyReport: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> and flu activity surveillance: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>

Flu near you: <https://flunearyou.org/>. Please sign up and forward to your staff!

2014-2015 Influenza CD/Epi Weekly Report (Week 4: 1/25/15 - 01/31/15)

Death Report for Week 04

- Deaths from all causes: 865
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 66
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 5

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 9/28/2014

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 7
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 24
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 31

ER Visits*

- **Week Ending: 01/31/2015**
Weighted Average: 13 % (42 Hospitals)
– Total Visits: 16,414
– Visits with ILI: 2,128
- **Previous Week**
Weighted Average: 13.8% (44 Hospitals)
– Total Visits: 19,412
– Visits with ILI: 2,682

*% is the number of ILI visits*100/Total Visits

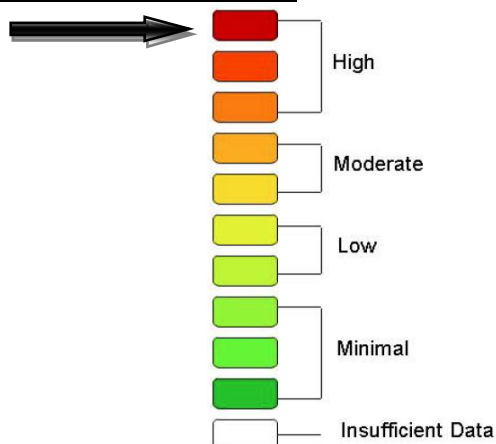
Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- **PCR Confirmed:**
– Cumulative: 226
– Week ending 01/31/2015: 21
- **ILI or Antigen Tested (Provisional):**
– Cumulative: 1276
– Week ending 01/31/2015: 113

Total Pregnant and HCW with ILI

- **Pregnant, ER Visits: 43**
- **Health Care Workers: 180**

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza

- Total Cases in September 2014: 8
- Total Cases since 09/28/2014: 420
- Week Ending 01/31/2015: 38

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week4	Other Labs Week4	Cumulative Cases Since 9/28/2014
A+	0	15	226
B+	0	0	7
B/Victoria	1	0	10
B/ Yamagata	1	0	6
H1N1+	0	0	3
H3+	20	1	168
Unsubtypable	0	0	0
Total	22	16	420
Negative	4	--	

PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 09/28/2014

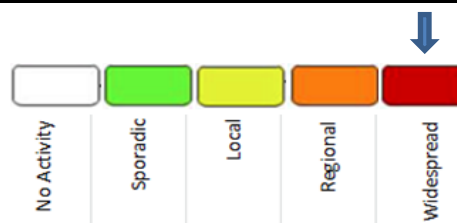
Age Groups	PCR+	Pregnant	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr	22	-	7	0
5-18 yr	56	0	9	0
19-24 yr	30	6	10	0
25-49 yr	92	7	48	1
50-64 yr	76	-	40	2
>= 65 yr	144	-	112	4
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	420	13	226	7

School Absenteeism*

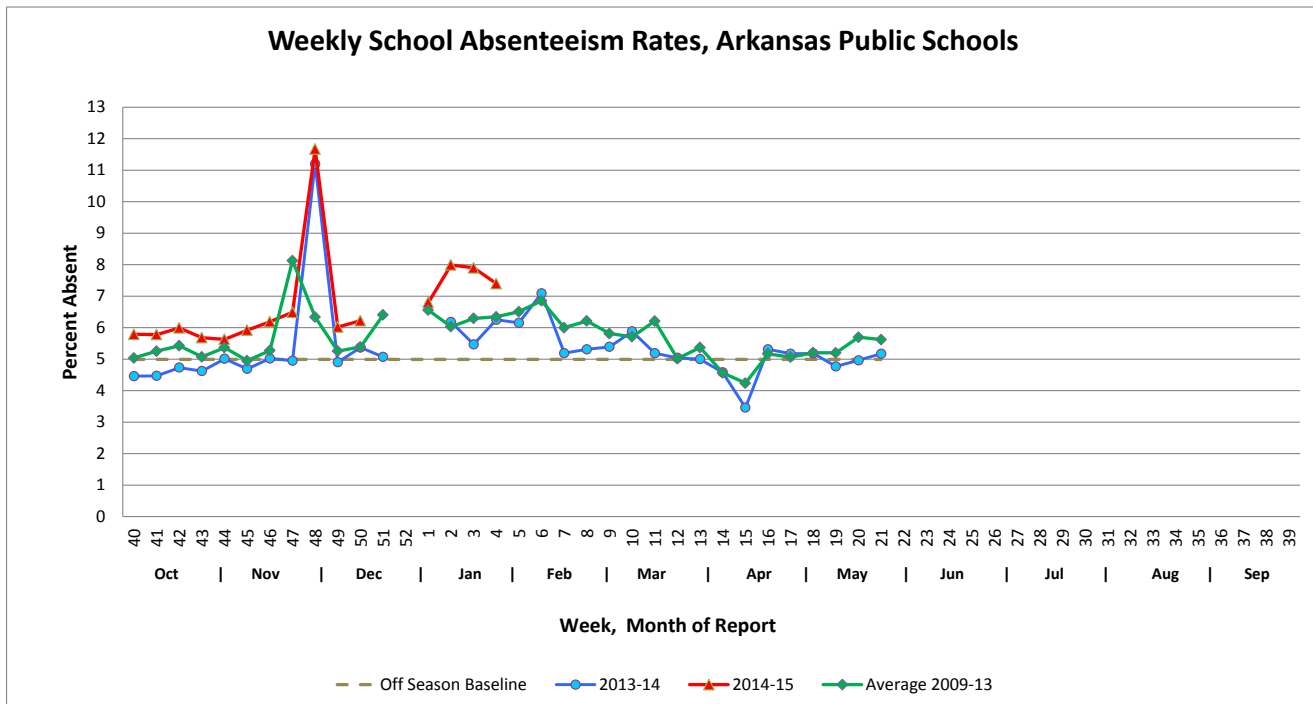
- Week Ending: 01/31/2015
– Percent Absent: 7.4
– Previous week: 7.9

* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

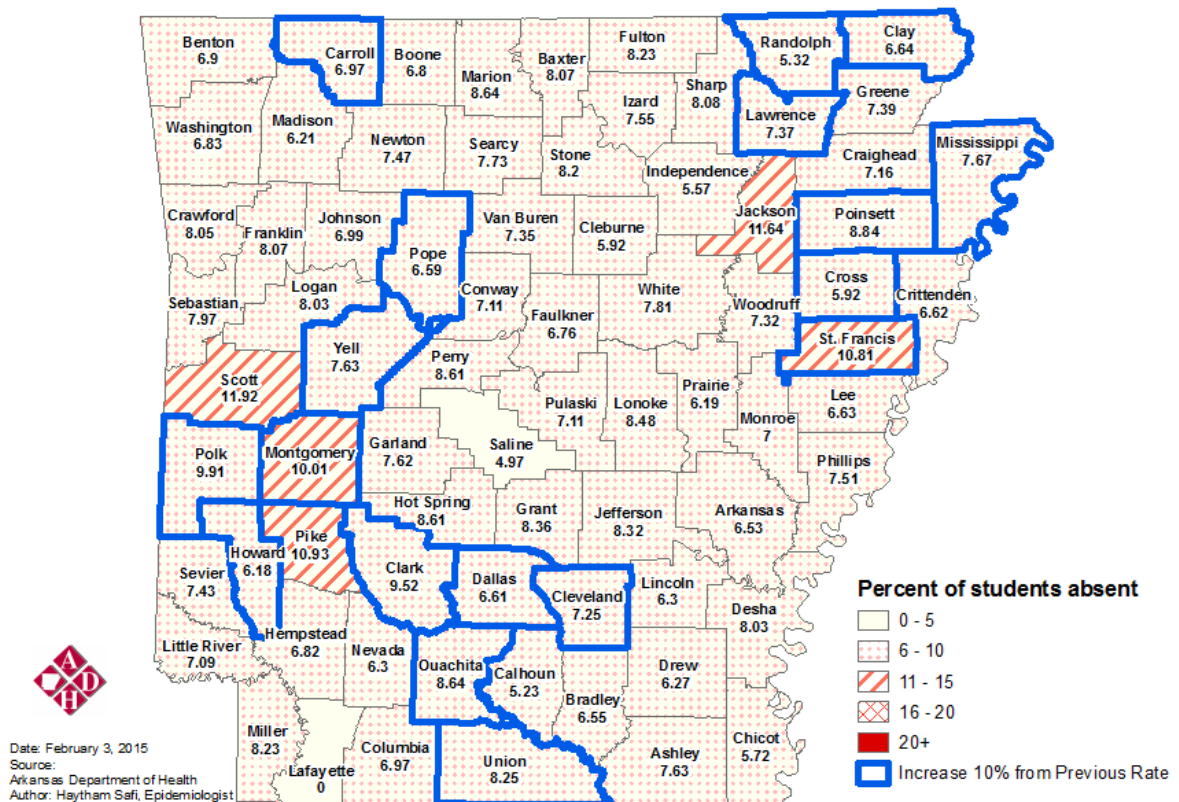
Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 4:



School Absenteeism:

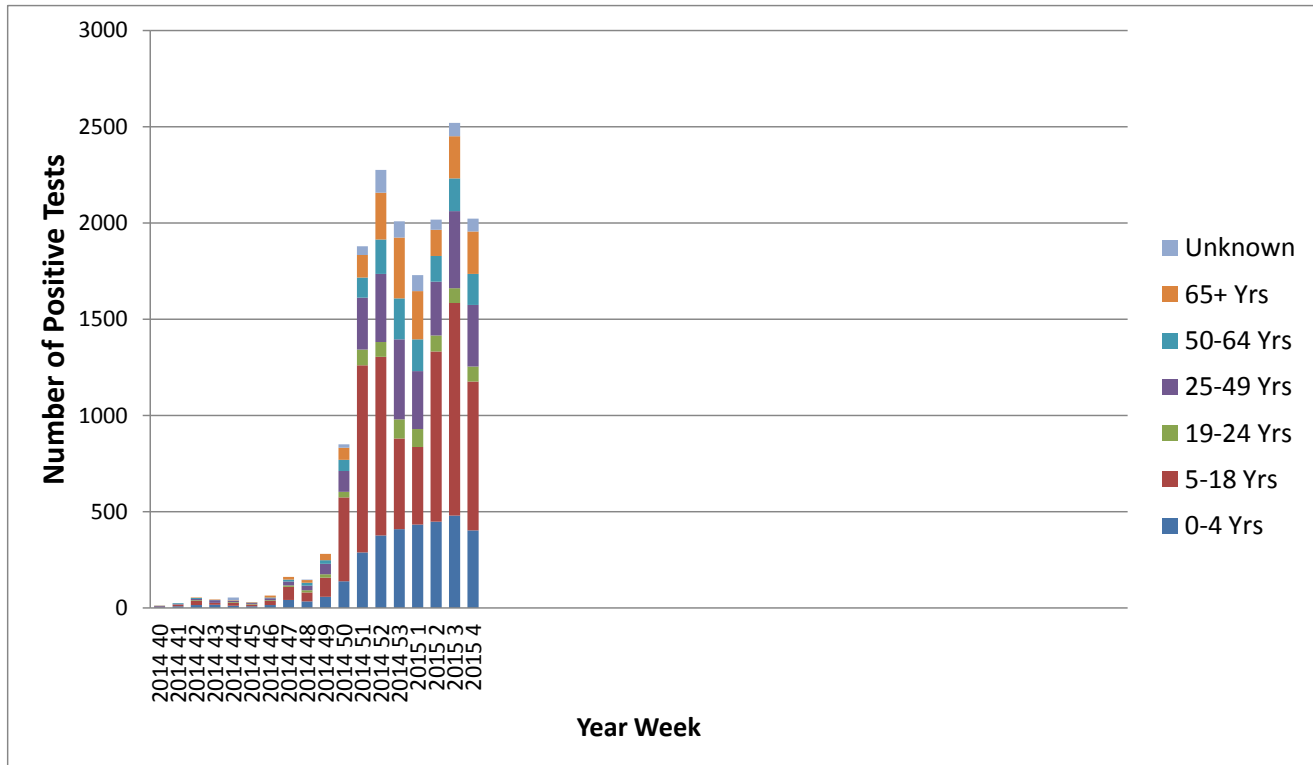


School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2014-2015 Percent Absent for Week Ending 1/31/2015

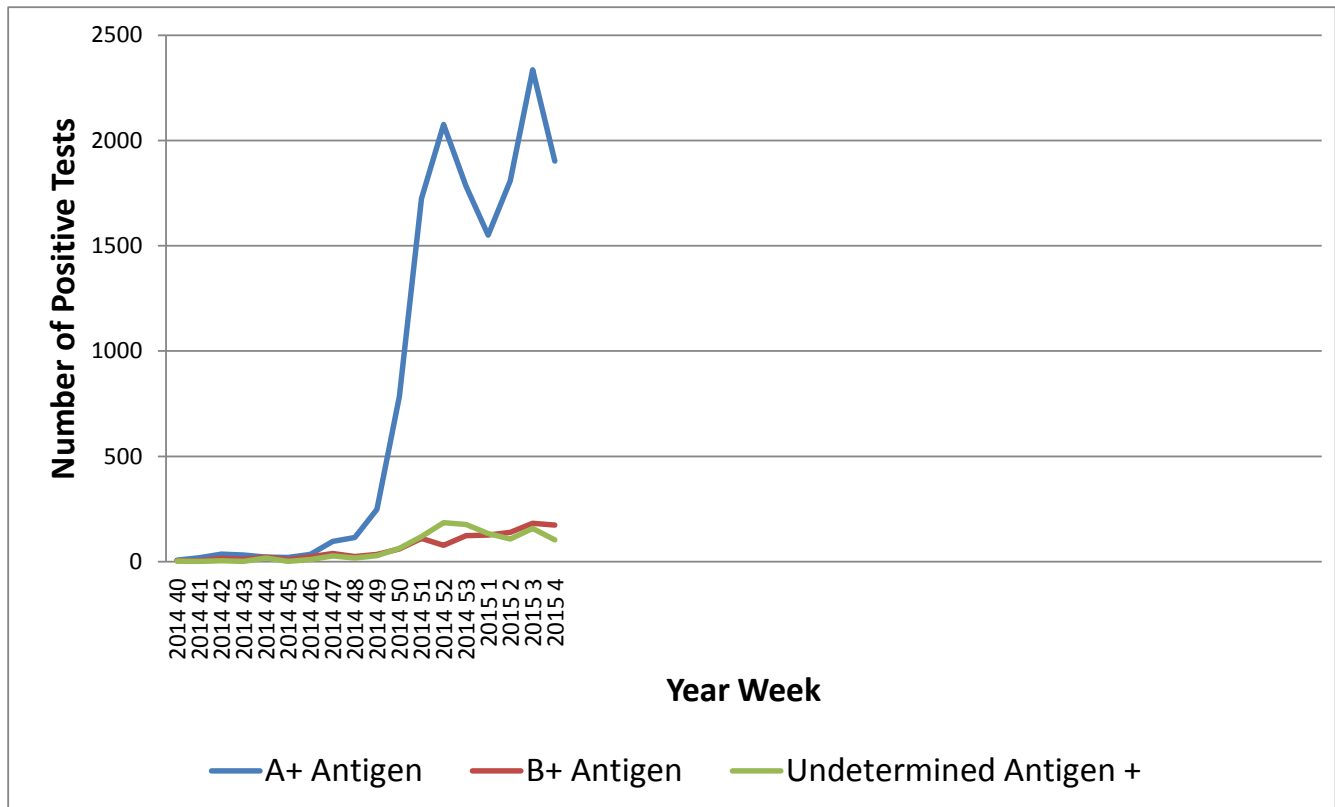


Antigen Report:

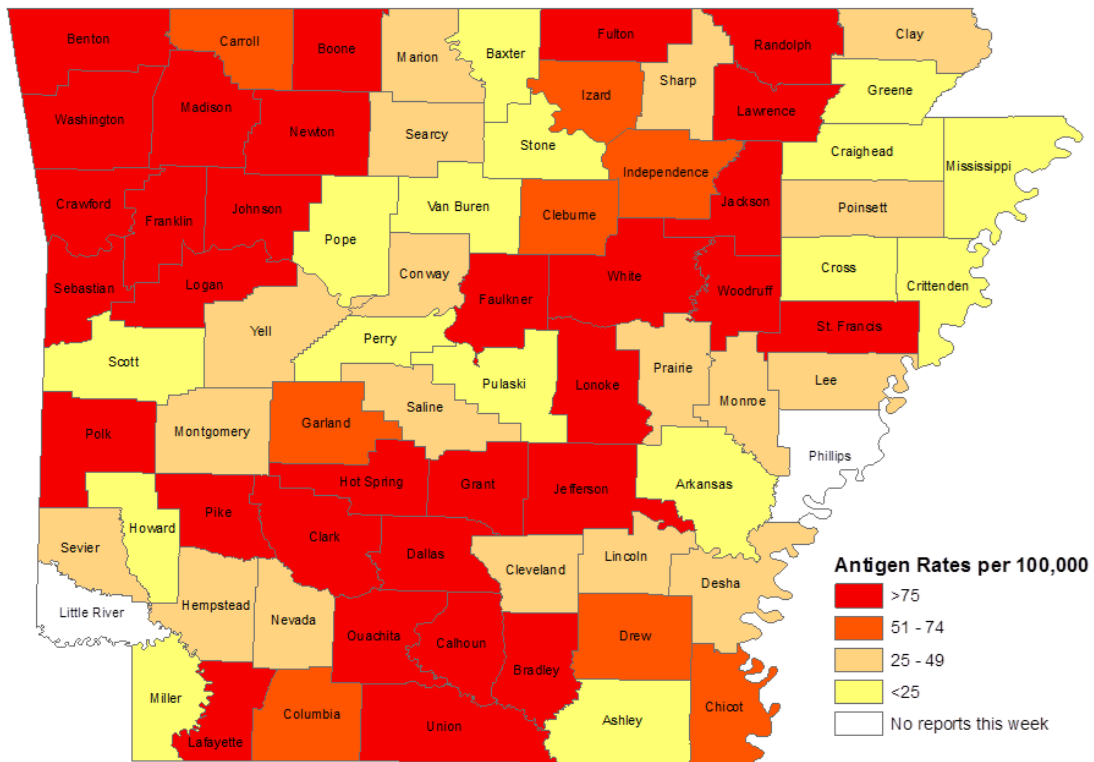
Positive Flu Antigen Tests by Age-Groups, Arkansas 2014-15



Positive Flu Antigen by Type, Arkansas 2014-15



Reported Positive Influenza Antigen Rates by County for Week 4 of 2015 Only, Arkansas 2014-15

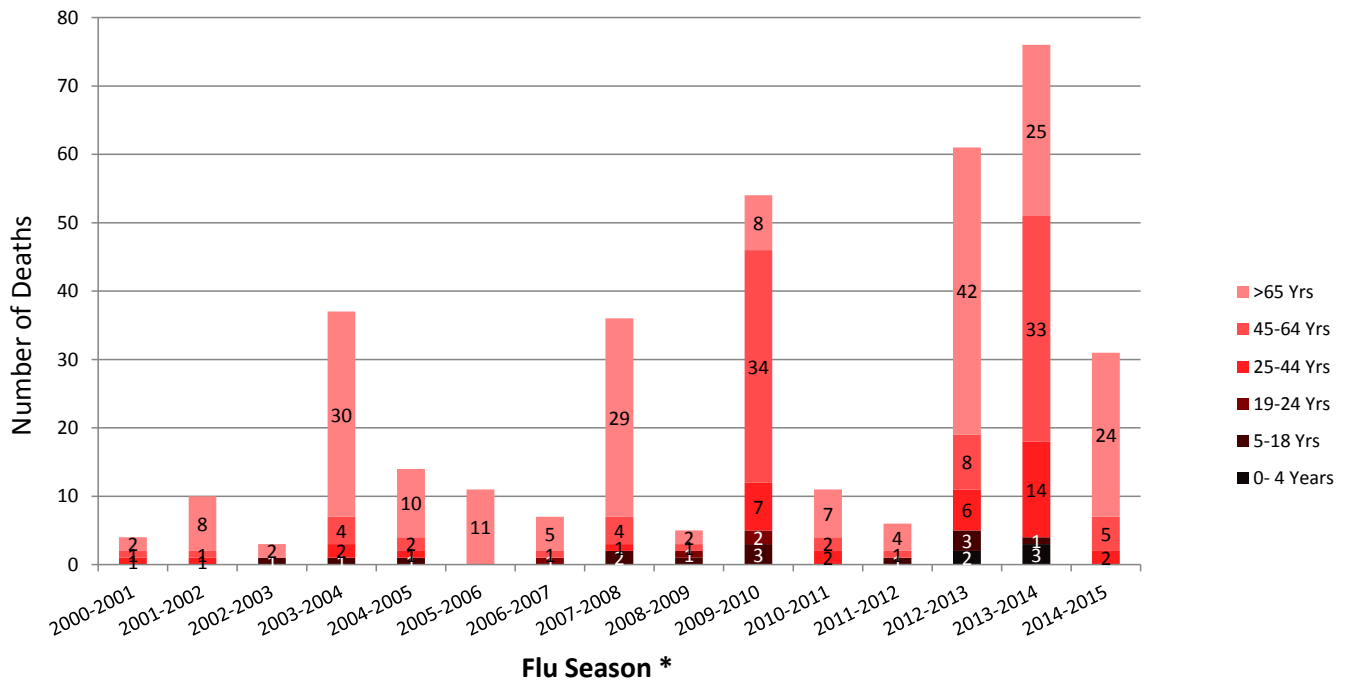


Author: Haytham Safi, Epidemiologist

Date: February 3, 2015

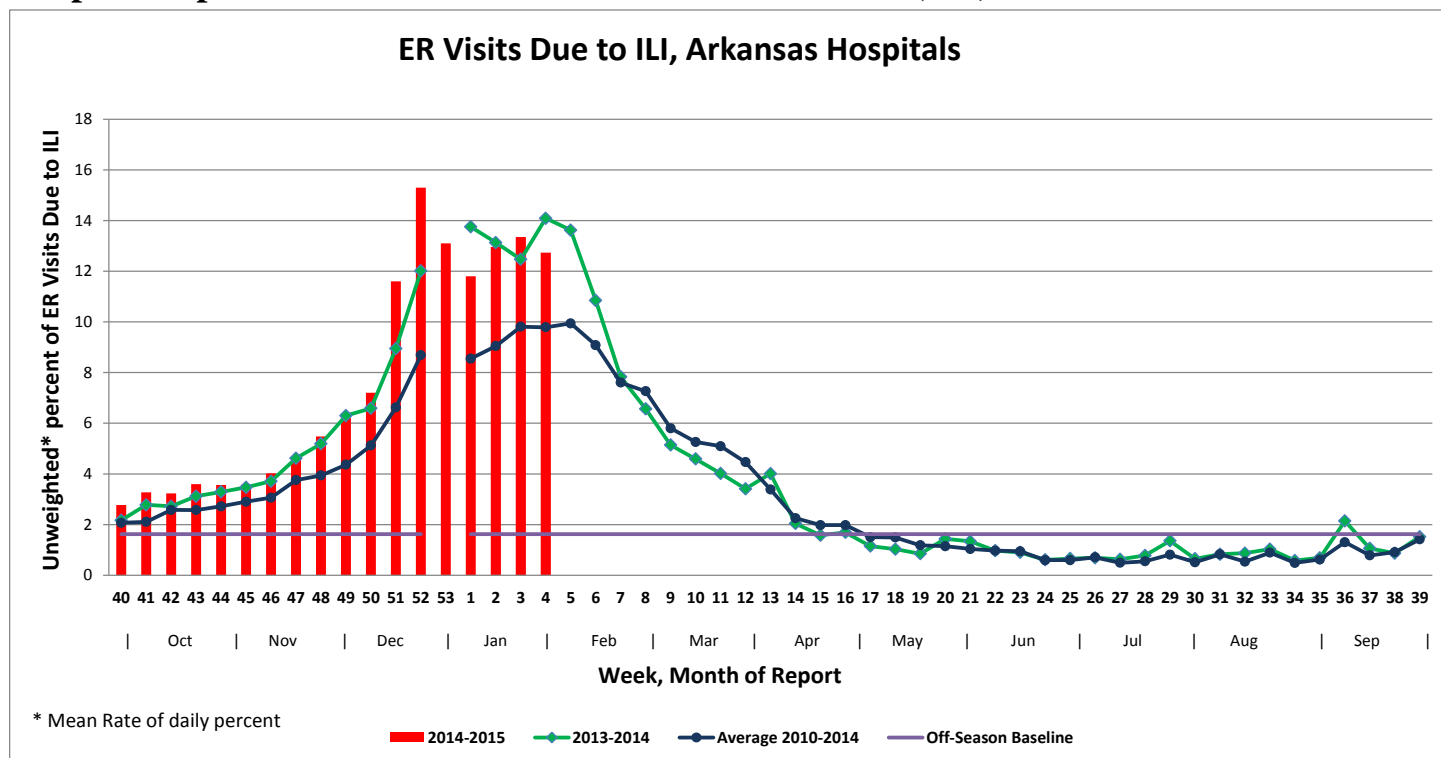
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2000-2015 (Provisional)

Report Updated: 02/02/2015

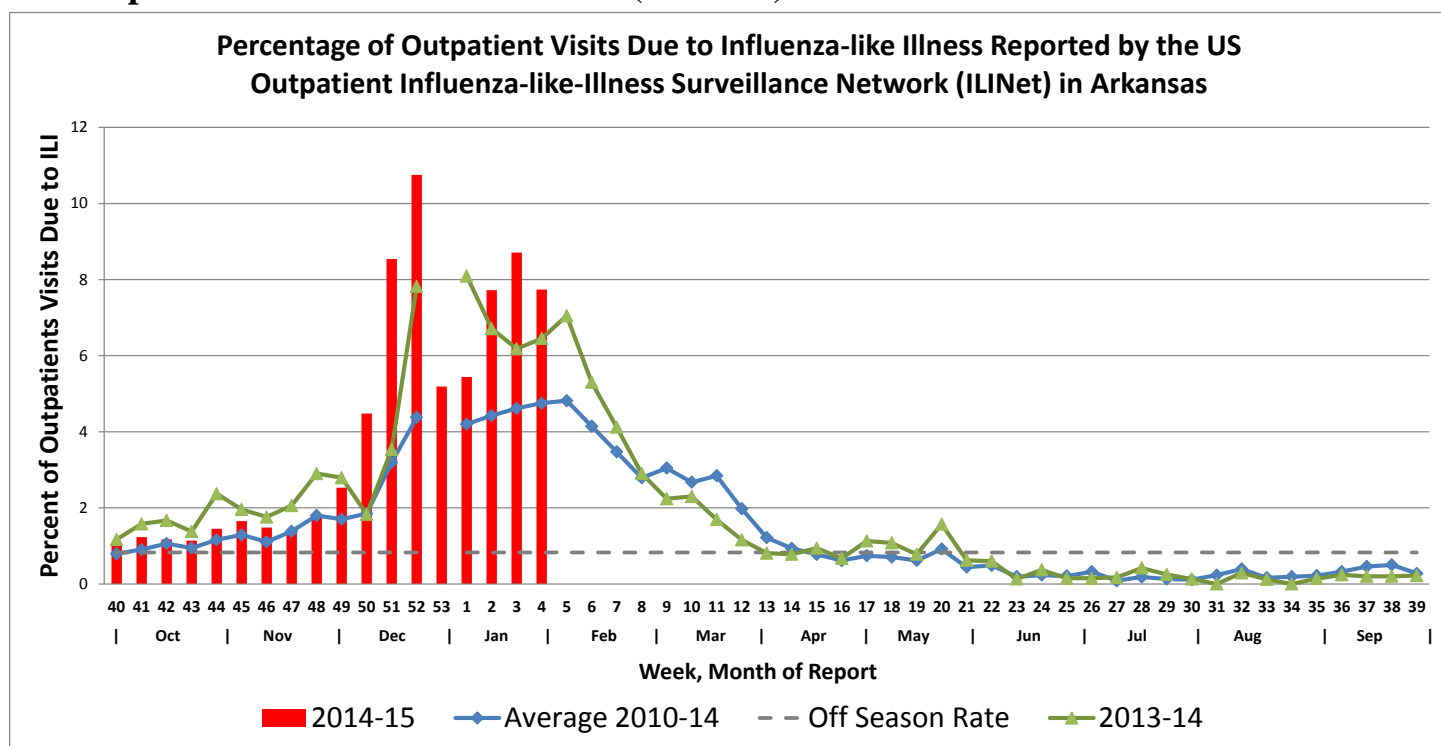


* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36
Source: ADH Immunization Section, Center for Health Statistics

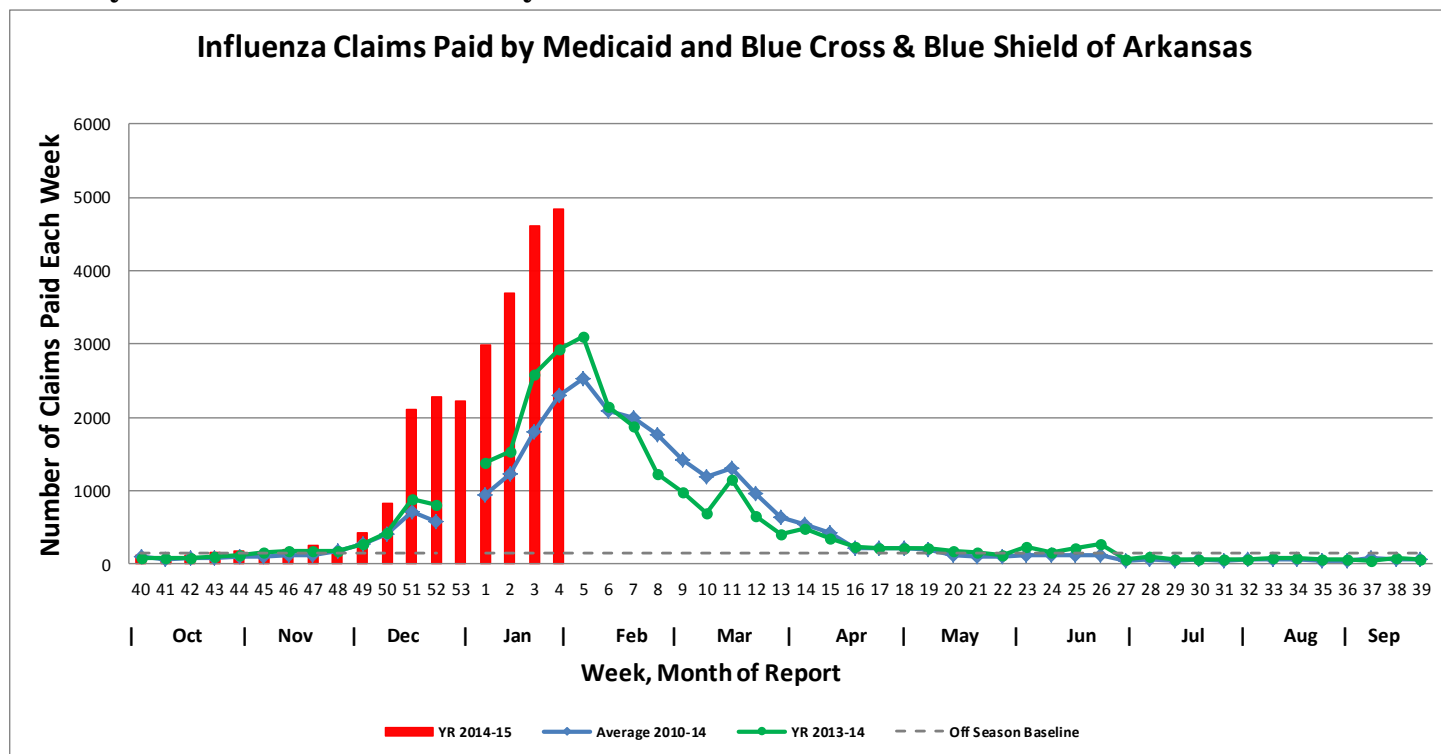
Hospital Report – ER Visits With Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI)



US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

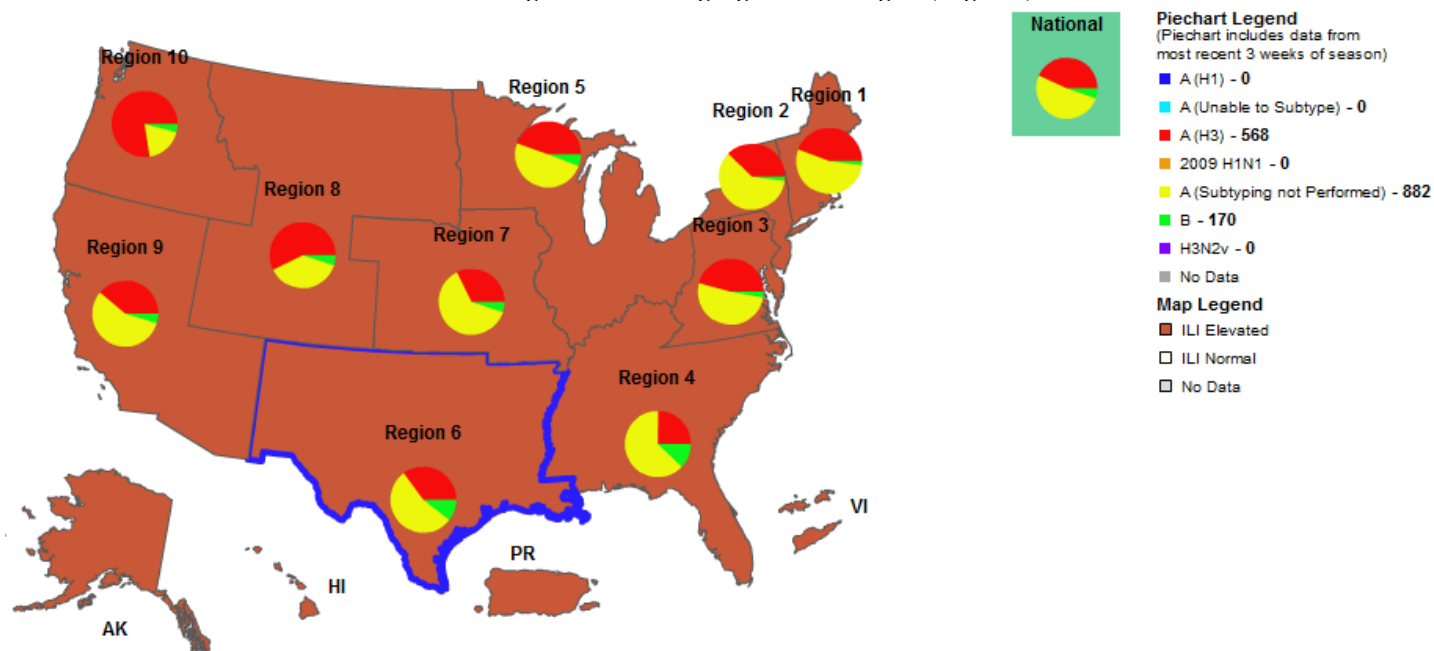


Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2014-2015 Season, Week Ending Jan 23, 2015

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)



Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists



Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week: 4: Widespread

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2014-15

